CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

25X1

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COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT	
SUBJECT	The Dragoman-Svilengrad International Rail Line	DATE DISTR.	3 August 1954
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This is UNEVALUATED

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. The international rail line through Bulgaria reaches from Dimitrovgrad (Yugoslavia) through Dragoman, Slivnitsa, Sofia, Ikhtiman, Septemvri, Pazardzhik, Krichim, Dimitrovgrad, and Maritsa to Svilengrad on the Turkish border. Its length in Bulgaria is 390 kilometers, requiring a travel period of approximately 16 hours. The line is standard gauge (143 cm.), single track, and uses steam locomotives. It has 14 bridges and no tunnels. 25X1

2. In 1949-1950, work was carried out on the repairing of the superstructure, with the replacing of rails.

Bridges

3. The bridge over the Vrŭbnitsa River located 7,500 meters from Kostinbrod (N 42-49, E 23-14), in the direction of Sofia, has the following characteristics:

   a. Type of bridge: Reinforced concrete, girder type, single span of 12 meters.

   b. Abutments: Stone masonry.

   c. Length: 15 meters.

   d. Width: 7 meters.

   e. Height above river bed: 4.5 meters.

   f. Footpaths: 2 side paths each 80 cm. wide, paved with metal plates.

   g. Side walls: Masonry.

   h. Capacity: 2,700 kilograms per square meter.

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STATE	ARMY	NAVY	AIR	FBI	AEC						
X	X	X	X								

(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X"; Field Distribution By "#".)

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i. Current: Very slow.

j. High water mark: 1.5 meters.

k. Low water mark: 40-50 centimeters.

l. Slope of banks: 50°.

4. The bridge over the Letnitsa River located 1,500 meters from Dimitrovgrad (Yugoslavia), in the direction of Dragoman (N 42-55, E 22-56), has the following characteristics:

a. Type of bridge: Metal, girder type, single span 12 meters long, crosses obliquely under a road bridge.

b. Abutments: Stone masonry.

c. Length: 13-15 meters.

d. Width: 7 meters.

e. Height above river bed: 4.5 meters.

f. Footpaths: 2 side paths each 80 cm. wide, paved with metal plates.

g. Side walls: Metal, with railings.

h. Capacity: 2,700 kilograms per square meter.

i. Supports: Equalizing bed type.

j. Current: Slow.

k. High water mark: 2 meters.

l. Low water mark: 30-40 centimeters.

m. Slope of banks: Left bank 70°, right bank 40°.

5. The bridge over the Iskŭr River located 400 meters from Gara Iskŭr (N 42-40, E 23-24), in the direction of Vakarel (N 42-33, E 23-42), has the following characteristics:

a. Type of bridge: Metal girder type, 10 spans of 20 meters each.

b. Abutments and piles: Stone masonry.

c. Girders: The bridge has rectilinear girders connected with hinges, with multiple trestles, and trellis roof. The girders are six meters high.

d. Length: 230-250 meters.

e. Width: 8 meters.

f. Height above river bed: 7-8 meters.

g. Footpaths: 2 side paths each 1.5 meters wide, paved in wood.

25X1

h. Capacity: 2,500 kilograms per square meter.

i. Supports: Equalizing bed type.

j. Current: Slow.

k. High water mark: 2.5 meters.

l. Low water mark: 40 centimeters.

m. Slope of banks: 35-40°.

6. The bridge over the Dolna Banya River located three kilometers northeast of the Kostenets railroad station (N 42-19, E 23-51) has the following characteristics:

a. Type of bridge: Metal, girder type, four spans of 20 meters each.

b. Abutments and piles: Stone masonry.

c. Length: 100-110 meters.

d. Width: 8 meters.

e. Height above river bed: 15 meters.

f. Footpaths: 2 side paths each 1.5 meters wide, paved in wood.

g. Side walls: Metal, with railings.

h. Capacity: 2,500 kilograms per square meter.

i. Supports: Equalizing bed type.

j. Current: Very slow.

k. High water mark: 2-2.5 meters.

l. Low water mark: 30 centimeters.

m. Slope of banks: 60°.

7. The bridge over the Maritsa River located 300 meters northwest of the Kostenets railroad station has the following characteristics:

a. Type of bridge: Metal, girder type, two spans of 20 meters each.

b. Abutments and piles: Stone masonry.

c. Length: 50 meters.

d. Width: 8 meters.

e. Height above river bed: 10-11 meters.

f. Side paths: 2 side paths each 1.5 meters wide, paved in wood.

25X1

g. Side walls: Metal, with railings.

h. Capacity: 2,500 kilograms per square meter.

i. Supports: Equalising bed type.

j. Current: Very swift.

k. High water mark: 2 meters.

l. Low water mark: 30 centimeters.

m. Slope of banks: 70°.

8. The bridge over the Sestrima River located 200 meters northwest of the Sestrimo railroad station (N 42-15, E 23-56) has the following characteristics:

a. Type of bridge: Metal, girder type, two spans of 20 meters each.

b. Abutments and piles: Stone masonry.

c. Length: 50 meters.

d. Width: 8 meters.

e. Height above river bed: 12 meters.

f. Foot paths: 2 side paths each 1.5 meters wide, paved in wood.

g. Side walls: Metal, with railings.

h. Capacity: 2,500 kilograms per square meter.

i. Supports: Equalising bed type.

j. Current: Swift.

k. High water mark: 2 meters.

l. Low water mark: 50 centimeters.

m. Slope of banks: 80°.

9. The bridge over the Sukha River located approximately 1,500 meters northwest of the Sestrimo railroad station has the following characteristics:

a. Type of bridge: Metal, girder type, single span 70 meters long.

b. Girders: The bridge has to semiparabolic girders (one per side), seven meters high in the middle.

c. Abutments: Stone masonry.

d. Length: Approximately 74 meters.

e. Width: 8 meters.

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f. Height above river bed: 25 meters.

g. Footpaths: 2 side paths each 1.5 meters long, paved in wood.

h. Side walls: Metal, with railings.

i. Capacity: 3,200 kilograms per square meter.

j. Supports: On rollers.

k. Current: Swift (in the spring).

l. High water mark: 4-5 meters (in the spring).

m. Low water mark: Almost no water.

n. Slope of banks: 80°.

10. The bridge over an unidentified stream located approximately 2,200 meters northwest of the Sestrimo railroad station has the following characteristics:

a. Type of bridge: Metal, girder type, three spans of 20 meters each.

b. Abutments and piles: Stone masonry.

c. Length: 70-72 meters.

d. Width: 8 meters.

e. Height above river bed: 14-15 meters.

f. Footpaths: 2 side paths each 1.5 meters wide, paved in wood.

g. Side walls: Metal, with railings.

h. Capacity: 2,500 kilograms per square meter.

i. Supports: Equalizing bed type.

j. Current: Rather swift.

k. High water mark: 2-2.5 meters.

l. Low water mark: 10 centimeters.

m. Slope of banks: 80°.

11. The bridge over the Eli Dere River located approximately 3,500 meters east of the Saranovo railroad station (N 42-11, E 24-08) has the following characteristics:

a. Type of bridge: Metal, girder type, eight spans of 12 meters each.

b. Abutments and piles: Stone masonry.

c. Length: 120 meters.

25X1

d. Width: 8 meters.

e. Height above river bed: 5 meters.

f. Footpaths: 2 side paths each 1.5 meters wide, paved in wood.

g. Side walls: Metal, with railings.

h. Capacity: 2,500 kilograms per square meter.

i. Supports: Equalizing bed type.

j. Current: Swift.

k. High water mark: 2.5 meters.

l. Low water mark: 30-40 centimeters.

m. Slope of banks: 30-35°.

12. The bridge over the Vŭcha River located approximately 5,500 meters east of the Krichim railroad junction (N 42-03, E 24- 28) has the following characteristics:

a. Type of bridge: Metal, girder type, four spans of 15 meters each.

b. Girders: Four sections of girders (four per side), rectilinear trestle type, not covered on the top. They are not connected, are set at intervals of 20 meters, and are six meters high.

c. Abutments and piles: Stone masonry.

d. Length: Approximately 65 meters.

e. Width: 8 meters.

f. Height above river bed: 8 meters.

g. Footpaths: 2 side paths each 1.5 meters wide, paved in wood.

h. Capacity: 3,200 kilograms per square meter.

i. Supports: Equalizing bed type.

j. Current: Rather swift.

k. High water mark: 3 meters.

l. Low water mark: 50 centimeters.

m. Slope of banks: 50°.

13. The bridge over the Chaya River located 600 meters west of the Katunitsa railroad station (N 42-05, E 24-52) has the following characteristics:

a. Type of bridge: Metal, girder type, three spans of 15 meters each.

b. Abutments and piles: Stone masonry.

25X1

c. Length: 60 meters.

d. Width: 8 meters.

e. Height above river bed: 6 meters.

f. Footpaths: 2 side paths each 1.5 meters wide, paved in wood.

g. Side walls: Metal, with railings.

h. Capacity: 2,500 kilograms per square meter.

i. Supports: Equalizing bed type.

j. Current: Slow.

k. High water mark: 2-2.6 meters.

l. Low water mark: 60 centimeters.

m. Slope of banks: 50°.

14. The bridge over the Stari Izvor River located approximately 800 meters east of the Sadovo railroad station (N 42-07, E 24-57) has the following characteristics:

a. Type of bridge: Metal, girder type, three spans of 12 meters each.

b. Abutments and piles: Stone masonry.

c. Length: 45 meters.

d. Width: 8 meters.

e. Height above river bed: 8 meters.

f. Footpaths: 2 side paths each 1.5 meters wide, paved in wood.

g. Side walls: Metal, with railings.

h. Capacity: 2,500 kilograms per square meter.

i. Supports: Equalizing bed type.

j. Current: Slow.

k. High water mark: 2 meters.

l. Low water mark: 50 centimeters.

m. Slope of banks: 50°.

15. The bridge over the Matska River located approximately 1,500 meters east of Borisovgrad (N 42-06, E 25-14, now Purvi May) has the following characteristics:

a. Type of bridge: Metal, girder type, two spans of 20 meters each.

b. Abutments and piles: Stone masonry.

25X1

c. Length: 48 meters.

d. Width: 8 meters.

e. Height above river bed: 6 meters.

f. Footpaths: 2 side paths each 1.5 meters wide, paved in wood.

g. Side walls: Metal, with railings.

h. Capacity: 2,500 kilograms per square meter.

i. Supports: Equalizing bed type.

j. Current: Swift.

k. High water mark: Not known.

l. Low water mark: 40-50 centimeters.

m. Slope of banks: 35-40°.

16. The bridge over an unknown stream located approximately 800 meters east of the Skobelevo railroad station (N 42-06, E 25-21) has the following characteristics:

a. Type of bridge: Metal, girder type, single span 20 meters long.

b. Abutments: Stone masonry.

c. Length: 22 meters.

d. Width: 8 meters.

e. Height above river bed: 5-6 meters.

f. Footpaths: 2 side paths each 1.5 meters wide, paved in wood.

g. Side walls: Metal, with railings.

h. Capacity: 2,500 kilograms per square meter.

i. Supports: Equalising bed type.

j. Current: Slow.

k. High water mark: Not known.

l. Low water mark: 40 centimeters.

m. Slope of banks: 40°.

25X1